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Maryland Agricultural College.

JANUARY 15th, 1874.

TO THE HONORABLE

JESSE K. HINES, SPEAKER

HOUSE DELEGATES, ANNAPOLIS.

SIR :

The Trustees of the Maryland Agricultural College. beg leave in accordance with the terms of the charter, to submit the following report :

They are happy to report the College upon a more solid and substantial basis than at any former period. Within the past year the College has been reorganized. The object was to adapt it more distinctly and definitely, as seems to have been its original design, to a practical and technical school, rather than one giving a general or classical education. The law of Congress, granting the proceeds of the sale of land scrip, accepted by Maryland, and applied to this College, says, that the leading object shall be to teach subjects relating to "Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts." In order to fully comply with this law the Trustees have added to the Faculty the Chair of Agriculture, under which the experiments required in the 7th section of the Charter, have been carefully commenced and will be prosecuted with exactness to solve many questions now but vaguely and imperfectly understood. A limit has been fixed below which students will not be received into the College. While this has had the effect of somewhat diminishing the number of students, and, as a consequence thereon the revenues of the College, it has added greatly to the character

and dignity of the school. The State, in consideration of its annual donation of six thousand dollars, requires the College to give gratuitous tuition and books to sixty scholars. The effect of this has been to create an invidious distinction between beneficiary and full paying students. To avoid this, and to meet the growing demand for general education, the Trustees have placed all the students on the same level, and now offer free tuition to all who enter its halls, while board is fixed at a sum so moderate as to place the advantages of the College within the reach of a much larger class than heretofore. The Trustees have in doing this, sought rather to extend the advantages and benefits of the College to the industrial classes, for whom it was created and endowed, than to make it a source of profit to its stockholders, relying upon the state to make up any deficiency in its revenues, and to enable the Board to carry forward such improvements as time and experience will point out. To meet this loss of revenue from diminished numbers, consequent upon the limit to the age of applicants and free tuition, the Board have reduced the salary of Professors, and introduced reform and economy wherever they could be introduced without impairing the usefulness of the College. The present scholastic year commenced with a debt of \$4,334 dollars, this, it is the anxious desire of the Board to extinguish. The Charter declares as one of the objects of the Institution, the attainment of a Model Farm, the present farm can never be rendered a paying or creditable model without the introduction on it of a flock of improved sheep and a small herd of cattle of the best breeds. It should be furnished with all the latest improved implements of agriculture, not only for its own improvement and benefit but for that of the State at large, as by the trial of new inventions under its management, farmers of moderate means may be spared the risk and danger of investing their slender capital in implements which will not repay the outlay. The endeavor should be to make it a Bureau of Instruction, not only for the students at the College but for all Maryland, and it should be able to afford to the agricultural population of the State the most reliable and valuable account of experiments with not only stock and machinery, but with grain, seeds, fertilizers and the like.

Though the College organization has been improved in system, discipline and course of instruction, in addition to the charges mentioned before, there are still several important wants which make themselves felt daily and persistently. To such an Institution, a Library is an imperative necessity, not only for the benefit of the students, but for that of the Professors themselves—Books of reference in every branch of study, but especially in those of science are a need universally recognized, and one that cannot be dispensed with without serious interference with the usefulness and convenience of the teacher. To teach science without a laboratory of proper apparatus and extent is to strip the human frame of the network of muscles and sinews which render its labors efficient and in such qualities the laboratory at the College is sadly defective. The Charter calls on the Professors of Chemistry and Natural Science, to answer the inquiries and analyze the specimens sent from any person in the State, and it were to be called upon to “make bricks without straw,” to do this without the proper means of analyzation. The benefits of an addition to this branch of learning will be felt not only in its immediate neighborhood but in the state at large,

The want of skilled and valuable labor has long been felt in this State, dependent as it has been upon the mercies of a restless and uncertain colored population in many portions, and to obviate this difficulty and to supply this want the introduction of foreign laborers is rapidly increasing. Of all these laborers, those most nearly allied to us in manners, language, customs and religion and therefore most suitable for permanent settlers among us, are the emigrants from Great Britain. The present farm manager at the College, himself an Englishman, can procure for us numbers of his countrymen, and an appropriation from the Legislature for this purpose, will not only enable the Board to utilize their property at “Rossberg,” but to introduce into the State a class of farm-labor whose value will be simply incalculable. The great superiority of laborers of this nationality in brain, muscle and thoroughness over all others is one universally acknowledged by writers on the question of labor, and the present rare opportunity afforded the State to obtain what so many other

States in the union seem now on the alert to seize, is one which should not be neglected or suffered to escape. These objects can manifestly not be obtained without aid from the State, and though a much larger sum could be most advantageously used, the Trustees for the next two years will confine themselves to the moderate request of a sum of \$5.000 per annum for the needs and necessities of the College proper, and a similar sum for the English colony. It must be borne in mind that such an appropriation is asked in the behalf of and for the purpose of improving a property in which the State, as absolute half owner thereof, should take the deepest interest and be in a manner indetified with.

In conclusion the Board desire to state that there are now being educated at the College free of tuition eighty of the finest young men in the State, and to bear testimonial likewise to the ability, efficiency and zeal of the President of the College and his corps of Professors.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees,

A. B. DAVIS,

President.